

TO ADVERTISERS.

Transient advertisements must be paid for in advance to insure insertion.

TO AGENTS

Settlements of accounts will be required monthly, or the supply of papers will be discontinued. The daily and weekly papers will be furnished at the lowest cost made, and no exception will be made in the future to this rule.

The Strange Apathy of Government Regarding the Mail Service.

Were a man to deny himself the pleasure of walking because he is restricted from the privilege of flying, and refuse his dinner because it is not ushered in on a service of plate, should we not be more inclined to ridicule than to pity him? If our Government persists in depriving us of the pleasure of receiving letters from abroad, because it cannot have the service performed by a subsidised boat, and denies itself of an opportunity within its reach, either from a vain repining after that which should never return, or from as vain an aspiring after that which may never arrive, we conceive that its policy becomes a proper subject for censure. For four days it has been given out that Capt. Oldfield had placed the Sparrowhawk at the disposal of the Colonial Government. Two days before the California had left San Francisco it was known here that she would bring no mail. The opportunity that now exists of employing one of Her Majesty's ships in the service, existed then. Yet nothing was done; nor has a step been taken as yet towards sending or receiving a mail. Numerous telegrams, conveying Captain Oldfield's consideration, have been sent to New Westminster. The vessel is ready coaled, and with fires banked, only awaits a word from the Governor to insure an almost instant departure. Mercantile interests are suffering for the want of letters and invoices; but, shut out as His Excellency is from all communication with mercantile men— isolated, we might say, from contact with the outer world—he fails to perceive the necessity which exists for the prompt delivery of the mails at the "seat of commerce" of the Colony. We do not find fault with the Government for declining to pay more for a mail service than it was worth or it could afford. On the contrary, Government has acted most wisely in putting an end to the system; but we do think that it deserves censure for neglecting to seize upon the first opportunity to secure even a temporary service—especially when that service can be had without a farthing of expense to the Colony. We can see no excuse for this delay—no reason why the kind offer of Capt. Oldfield was not accepted several days ago—save this, that Government wishes to again subsidize the California Company, and hopes, by making the public feel for a time the inconvenience resulting from the non-delivery of the mails, to render a renewal of the contract popular. If this be the object had in view, it is simply disgraceful, and a remonstrance should go up from this place against the continuance of the policy that would shake Stumptown to its centre, and compel Governor Seymour to accept the Sparrowhawk as a special mail-boat until such time as the California Company shall return to its senses and consent to perform the service for a sum within the ability of the Colony to pay.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

[Specially Reported for the British Colonist.]

Monday's Sitting.

Monday Evening, April 1st.

The Council met at 8 p. m. Present:—Hons Stamp, Trutch, Pemberton, Macdonald, Barnard, Brew, Robson, Young, Crease, Birch, (presiding) Franklyn, Hamley, Wood, Smith, DeCosmos, Southgate, Walkem, Ball, Sanders, Helmecken.

Real Estate Tax Bill. Hon Sanders in the Chair.

Hon Hamley could come to no satisfactory conclusion in relation to the matter at issue and he did not think any bill would meet the difficulty. He would propose in lieu of the bill the following resolution: "That the Government appoint a committee to be formed with the Chief Justice of Vancouver Island, and the members from that section of the Colony, to hear and decide upon the amount of compensation to be awarded and to determine the most equitable manner of settling existing disputes."

Hon Wood—The commission suggested could not be appointed before the passing of an act for that purpose.

Hon Walkem—The present Sheriff had 2 or 3 writs served upon him already, and if the bill was not passed he (the Sheriff) would be much harassed. In not one of these cases had the former Sheriff restrained. The formalities observed at sale do not do away with necessity for detention previously.

Hon Birch—the commission would eliminate the information so much required on the subject. He should decidedly prefer the resolution to the bill.

Hon Wood the resolution in its present form was remarkable; the bill would not pass if the resolution was added.

Hon Walkem—Looking at amount involved the bill should be allowed to pass; it was more special pleading to say that the sales were valid.

Hon DeCosmos—The hon member for Cariboo had previously received a retainer on his part to Victoria.

Hon Walkem—The gentleman who had sent down had made allusions for which he would have demanded an apology, did he not remember that the hon gentleman was an after dinner speech.

Hon Ball thought the bill if passed without the resolution might do injury; it would

only be doing justice to the sheriff to have a commission, as in some cases he acted legally, and hence all the sales would not be illegal. The purchasers at those sales bid on the good faith of getting a title, as promised by the Sheriff, and he thought any man buying in good faith should be indemnified.

Hon Young—The resolution was not worth paper it was written upon, at this late period of the session, but had it been proposed earlier, the arguments in favor of it might have had some force. The purchasers at tax sales could not complain of any injustice. In making such purchases they ought to have made themselves acquainted with the provisions of the act, and they would then have known that these provisions had not been properly carried out. The properties had been sold for taxes due three years after the levy ought to have been made. People who had paid all the taxes they supposed were due, had their property sold without their knowledge. He had sent copies of the bill to Victoria, and found that three fourths of the property holders were in favor of it. He had heard a week before, when a similar resolution was introduced, that the Legislative Assembly of Vancouver Island, it was defeated by the persistent opposition of two members out of 15, 13 being in favor of it.

Hon Walkem—He had been applied to conduct one of the suits against the sheriff, but had declined. He would not have alluded to that circumstance, but for the insulting remarks that had been addressed to him.

Hon Ball—People from whom taxes were due in 1860 would believe that the whole thing had been slurred over when four years were allowed to elapse.

Hon Wood—It was most unjust that men should be allowed to become possessed of other people's property without their knowledge, from the sheriff not having executed his duty. The omission by the sheriff was one of those accidents that occur from time to time for which no one is to blame.

Hon Hamley had been told that the people of Vancouver Island were unanimous in favor of the bill; then why did hon members from the Island vote against it.

Hon Pemberton—In some cases the lots sold at tax sales were undefined, and have never been discovered since; as a matter of necessity the Bill should be passed, otherwise the Government will have to face a score of actions against the sheriff.

Hon DeCosmos—The clause in the act relating to tax sales was very clear. One year after the sale of non-payment of taxes the purchaser was to receive a title.

Hon Crease—If it was true that titles under these sales were invalid, why not say so at once.

Hon Young—Certain portions of the act had not been complied with, hence titles under such circumstances would be worthless. People had paid their taxes for '62, '63, '64, and their property had been sold for the taxes due in '60 or '61, they had enquired at the time of the sale, and the sheriff had paid it accordingly. They might not have observed their property advertised, but knowing that the taxes were paid they did not think there was any necessity for troubling themselves.

Hon Wood—The mere sale by auction did not give the buyer a title since there could be no conveyance, as the buyer had not demanded to see the title, he had run the risk and his present false position was the consequence. When the buyers apply to the sheriff to complete the title, they find their mistake. It would be much better for them to take their money back, with 21 per cent interest than to have a bad title handed to them, causing great anxiety and loss.

Hon DeCosmos did not think that a mandamus would be asked for, he conceived the property holders had quite sufficient notice by advertisement; they had also a year after the sale for redemption. He thought the best way out of the difficulty would be by adding a resolution of the hon Collector of Customs.

Hon Robson—The officer charged with the business had grossly neglected his duty. It was a sample of Vancouver Island law, there would be plenty of such dirty messes to clear up. The requirements of the law had not been observed by the officer appointed for the purpose, and was not likely that the buyers could be cognizant of that. It was very likely that in taking back the property acquired at tax sales, they would be perpetrating a very gross fraud. It would certainly be the best for the Governor to appoint a commission; he (hon Robson) would support the resolution of hon Hamley.

Hon Helmecken entirely dissented from the principles of the bill but would support it as a matter of expediency. It was useless to go into the merits of the case; there was a serious danger that hung over their heads at that moment, and if some such measure was not passed the Attorney General would find it so. The sheriff was only an executive officer, and was obliged to do his duty. The late sheriff was forced and respected by all and he was very sorry that his name should have been mentioned in that place. If the Government wished to sell the property for the taxes they ought to do so within a year after they were due. A defaulting treasurer had disappeared; when Governor Kennedy required that the law should be carried out many came forward with their receipts of no notice had been taken in the books, many had lost or mislaid their receipts, few people kept their receipts after one year. The books of the runaway treasurer were found to be in the most confused condition. There could be no doubt that purchases at tax sales were purely speculative; hundreds of thousands of dollars worth were sold for a few dollars. He knew a gentleman who happened to be in Cariboo, whose land—1000 acres—was sold for \$200. He could give any number of similar instances where peoples' property had been taken during their absence. It was better to do a small wrong to prevent a much greater wrong. He thought the speculation was very good when they got back their money with 21 per cent interest. He thought the resolution might be incorporated with the bill.

Hon Mr Macdonald—There was ample evidence to show that the bill should be passed, when all the hon members from Vancouver Island but one were in favor of it. The bill would be a public benefit, and at most they could only do a small private wrong.

Hon Wood moved that the Governor be requested to withhold assent to the bill until the commission had learned the facts of the case.

This resolution was adopted, and the committee rose, reporting the bill complete.

The House then went into committee of the whole on Hon DeCosmos' motion for change in the constitution of the Council.

Hon Crease proposed that the committee do rise, as a discussion on the resolution would probably occupy the whole of the remainder of the session. The oration delivered when the resolution was brought in would not readily be forgotten.

Hon DeCosmos proposed to take the first clause of the resolution, in order to shorten the debate, as that clause really embodied the whole principle of the resolution.

Hon Franklyn would like to know if the hon member wished to change the constitution of the Council; and if so, it would be better to ventilate the matter and go through the whole of the resolution.

Hon DeCosmos—Had the hon magistrate for Cariboo been present when the resolution was moved he would have heard him (hon DeCosmos) ventilate the subject fully.

Hon Franklyn believed the colony would be better governed if there was no popular element in the Council at all—simply the Governor and the Executive.

After a conversation, in which Hons DeCosmos and Franklyn took part, Hon Robson said that the question before

the House was an important one, and although not calling for their immediate attention, was one which would ultimately be pressed upon them. The principles in the resolution were good, but he objected to the resolution for two reasons. First, because it was not the proper time to bring it forward. Several political changes had already taken place, and another to occur at present would be very injudicious. Second, the manner in which the principles were advocated. They had gone on very well on the mainland before the Union took place. It was from no desire on the part of the people of the mainland that an addition was asked to the popular element in the Council.

After some conversation between Hons DeCosmos and Franklyn,

Hon Robson, continued—If there was a desire for an addition to the popular members, the best mode of proceeding would be by an address to His Excellency, which would doubtless receive the proper attention. In moving the resolution the hon junior member for Victoria had used some very hard terms in relation to the present Government, and particularly in respect to the hon magistrate from whom the hon member charged, as so many players at thumbs up and thumbs down. A larger representative element might be beneficial, but with the difficulty at present existing in finding representatives it would be quite impossible to increase the number just now. They did not want half educated politicians. People wanted to be allowed to go quietly about their business, and if the hon member would stomp the country from there to Cariboo, he would find the country was not disposed for agitation. The present system of representation was quite sufficient for present purposes. He did not see why people should be pestered by political agitators. Let them make a good use of the representation they had. He did not wish to see the political agitation so prevalent on the Island engrafted on the mainland. The resolution was brought in a great deal for effect, but the debates on such matters were a great tax upon the patience of that House. Men with great talents were carried away with pet schemes. The raid which had been made upon the Estimates was not wise, not to say not honest. The motion for reduction in Crown salaries had been brought in by hon members for effect in order that they might stand well with the people outside. Why had that not been passed? Why has no hon member attempted to complete that glorious work? The bill was not in the orders of the day.

Hon Helmecken asked for the bill this morning, but had received no satisfactory reply.

Hon Robson challenged any hon member to take it up now and pass it if he could; it had never been touched from that day to this. The bill had not been introduced from an honest desire to serve the people; it was mere clap-trap. The people of Vancouver Island were thankful, and thought themselves fortunate in being delivered from their late Government. They looked upon representatives, active institutions as a failure. The hon junior member for Victoria, with his long speeches, induced people to ask for things they did not want. He recommended the hon member to withdraw his resolution.

Hon DeCosmos—The principle contained in the resolution was one which he would continue to advocate so long as he drew the breath of life, in public or in private. The principle had been hallowed by the struggles of the people for ages, and much blood and treasure had been expended on the subject. A hon member had formerly been foremost in his hostility to the Imperial policy in connection with the Port Hope convention. Was the hon gentleman's agitation right then?

Hon Helmecken—Had listened with considerable attention to the arguments on the subject and there could be no doubt that the principle was correct, and he was sure that every one with a drop of English blood in his veins would support it. The resolution was not got up for effect or for show, but for popularity. The people of Victoria were dissatisfied with the present form of government. They never were glad to give up their institutions, and in being united to British Columbia they expected to the last moment that these institutions would be continued. They would rather be disinherited than remain under such a government. The mainland had no school system and the County Court Act just passed gave magistrates the power to issue a capias. That executive officer, and was obliged to do his duty. The late sheriff was forced and respected by all and he was very sorry that his name should have been mentioned in that place. If the Government wished to sell the property for the taxes they ought to do so within a year after they were due. A defaulting treasurer had disappeared; when Governor Kennedy required that the law should be carried out many came forward with their receipts of no notice had been taken in the books, many had lost or mislaid their receipts, few people kept their receipts after one year. The books of the runaway treasurer were found to be in the most confused condition. There could be no doubt that purchases at tax sales were purely speculative; hundreds of thousands of dollars worth were sold for a few dollars. He knew a gentleman who happened to be in Cariboo, whose land—1000 acres—was sold for \$200. He could give any number of similar instances where peoples' property had been taken during their absence. It was better to do a small wrong to prevent a much greater wrong. He thought the speculation was very good when they got back their money with 21 per cent interest. He thought the resolution might be incorporated with the bill.

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never be paid while he remained in the colony.

Hon Young objected to paid members; but he would prefer that two thirds of the council should be elected members with one third government members.

Hon DeCosmos—Could see plainly what the result of a division on the resolution would be; but he conceived that the defeat of the measure by the defection of popular members would result in a popular victory. The hon member for New Westminster had taken great credit to himself for his opposition to popular institutions. Whatever credit he had gained in that respect would doubtless be very gratifying to New Westminster, and the hon member ought to be crowned with laurels. He thought his duty as an Englishman was to bring the measure forward, although he would have preferred not to have been called upon to take the initiative. He found himself alone with the hon member for Columbia, who gave him a quasi support, at the same time jamming the measure with faint praise. Hon members from Vancouver Island had pledged themselves to support him. He liked him, but he was not in their place. Some hon members who were so careless about coming there would not be traitors to principle always like some gentlemen under the influence of the blandishment of power. The hon member for Victoria District had pledged himself to support the resolution, now he would turn round and wish the resolution withdrawn. By adopting the resolution they would take the best means of avoiding agitation resistance to it, the surest means of producing agitation.

The hon member for Yale said he would not insure his (DeCosmos) bones if he went up country. If he went up country he believed his bones would be perfectly safe. The hon member for Quesnel had objected to paying members of that council, had they not paid members at that moment? and yet the hon member condemned the principle of which he himself was a shining example. The great orator from Cariboo District had considered the measure premature. He trusted the hon gentleman would be able to justify his vote with his constituents. (The hon gentleman spoke at considerable length, and made a most able speech.)

After a few remarks from Hon Helmecken who proposed an amendment, the house divided when the amendment was lost, the numbers being 16 to 3.

The original motion was then put to the house with a precisely similar result.

Hon Helmecken, DeCosmos, and Smith voting in the affirmative in each case.

The house adjourned at half past two a.m.

New Advertisements.

Wanted

A BAKER—Apply This Day to C. GILLIGAN, Store street.

Compositor Wanted

A GOOD COMPOSITOR WILL FIND a steady employment by applying immediately at this office.

FOR NEW WESTMINSTER.

THE STEAMER ISABEL WILL LEAVE for Victoria on Friday morning at 10 o'clock.

Blacksmiths!

NOTICE.

I HEREBY CAUTIONAL PERSONS against transacting business with the so-called firm of Charters & Gagner, as during my absence on a visit to the States, I have no interest in the shop, and was not present at the time of the arrangement being made.

All persons having claims against the firm of Charters & Gagner are requested to present them for payment to JOHN STOUT, L.O. O.

Victoria, April 9, 1867.

ROBINSON'S

Photographic Gallery,

At the Theatre, GOVERNMENT STREET, VICTORIA, V.I.

MR. N. SHAKESPEARE - Operator.

Mr R. devoting his attention exclusively to outdoor Photography.

23. The art practised in all its branches.

FOR SALE

50 Gunnies of Island Cured Bacon, at less than Auction Prices, 18 cents per pound, cash.

ALSO

100 Gunnies of Sugar-coated Hams and Bacon.

ALSO

50 Barrels of Extra Fine Leaf Lard.

On a Liberal Credit, 60 and 90 days, Duty Paid.

J. HEYWOOD, Yates street, Above Government.

NOTICE.

THE UNDERSIGNED REQUESTS THAT the party to whom he issued a Double Barreled MINIE RIFLE some time since will return the same.

JULIAN B. HARRIES

VANCOUVER ROWING CLUB.

A MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF the Club will be held at the Boat House, James Bay, on WEDNESDAY, April 10, at 4.30 p. m., for the Election of Officers and for making arrangements for the season.

T. L. WOOD, G. J. STEWART, Secretaries.

STEAMER ALEXANDER.

ALL CLAIMS AGAINST THE ABOVE steamer must be presented to the undersigned on or before the 10th inst., or they will not be allowed.

JANION, GIBSON & RHODES.

TO BE SOLD.

A HALF INTEREST IN THE GEORGE leave for England.

Apply to T. ALLEN, Land Agent, Government street, near Broughton.

Fresh Garden Seeds.

MOORE & CO,

Have received by Express, from the SHAKER'S GARDEN, MOUNT LEBANON, NEW YORK,

Their Eighth Annual Supply of FRESH AND RELIABLE GARDEN SEEDS,

Selected especially for this Market, and guaranteed to be of Last Year's Growth.

For Sale at Wholesale and Retail by MOORE & CO., Druggist, Yates street.

New Advertisements.

Real Estate

SALE.

VALUABLE

TOWN LOTS.

Has been instructed to sell,

AT 12 O'CLOCK, NOON,

The following eligible

PROPERTY

Lot on Chatham Street;

Lot on do do

Lot on do do

Each Lot 50x141, with good and productive soil—distance and situation eminently adapted for the erection of Suburban Residences.

ALSO

Two full sized Lots on Frederick street, next to Quadra.

ALSO

A small sized Lot on Princes street, James Bay.

ALSO

One Acre of the Oaklands Estate.

TERMS CASH.

ACTS OF SALE AT BUYERS' EXPENSE

General Hardware

Too numerous to particularize at

KENT & EVANS,

Fort street, Victoria.

For Sale!

TO ARRIVE EX CROSBY, fm PORTLAND

HOURLY EXPECTED!

72 bbls Magnolia Flour,

240 bbls Stark Mills Flour,

87 bbls Solano Flour,

50 bbls Dayton Flour,

50 gunnies choice Oregon Bacon,

